from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and electrical power from Urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Bihar.

(b) The total amount released by this Ministry to the State of Bihar, during the last three years, is Rs. 466.58 Lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Government is generally satisfied with the progress of utilisation of non-conventional energy sources in the state of Bihar. However, there is need to increase the coverage of potential and improve the functionally of Biogas plants and Improved Chulhas to bring it at par with the national average.

(e) Yes, Sir, the achievements made under various programmes of the Ministry, are reviewed from time to time.

(f) The details of the physical achievements for 1996-97 under various major programmes of the Ministry, in the State of Bihar, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Physical Targets and Achievements under Major Renewable Energy Programme in the State of Bihar, for 1996-97

S. No.	Name of the Programme	1996-97 Target	1996-97 Achievement
1.	Biogas		
(i)	NPBD (Nos.)	2,815	682
2.	Improved Chulha (Nos.)	60,000	24,712
3.	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	19,000	14,612
4.	SPV Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)	Not targets fixed	40
5.	Small Hydro Power Projects		
(i)	Portable Micro Hydel Sets (units of 10 KW each)	5	4
(ii)	Survey & Investigation	No targets fixed	24

NPBD = National Project on Biogas Development
KW = Kilo watt,
SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

[English]

Medicinal Value of Neem Tree

1373. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement an action plan to undertake research on the medicinal value of Neem Tree;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where research work has been started on Neem tree and its medicinal value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Various research and development institutions under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Sidha, Defence Research and Development Organization, Department of Biotechnology and University Grnats Commission are pursuing research on the medicinal properties of neem tree. The major area covered include : the potential of neem oil and its fractions as a contraceptive; evaluation of the antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties; micropropagation of elite planting material; in vitro production of therapeutic agents from cultured neem cells; isolation and characterization of active principle from neem bark for control of gastric hyperacidity and ulceration; assessment of genetic diversity in neem using molecular markers.

(c) The institutions with significant ongoing research work on neem are located in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Closure of IVCOL

1374. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision to close Indian Vaccine Corportation Ltd. (IVCOL) has been taken; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Madam, the Cabinet in its meeting dated 21-11-1995 approved that the Department of Biotechnology would initiate action for winding up and dissolution of IVCOL; and the additional cost, if any, alongwith other two partners is borne by DBT.

(b) This decision was taken because of the circumstances in which transfer of Vero Cell technology, the purpose for which primarily IVCOL was started in 1989, could not take place due to certain changes in policy to use only oral polio vaccine for eradication of polio in India instead of a combination of oral polio vaccine and injectible polio vaccine.